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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Inventors: Ecker, Griffey, Sampath, Hofstadler, McNeil, Crooke, Blyn, and Hall CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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Title: METHOD FOR RAPID DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF BIOAGENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND PRODUCT TESTING

> I certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to 571-273-8300 or deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450. Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 09/05/2006

In response to the Office Action mailed September 5, 2006, please accept the following:

- \boxtimes Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.
- X Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 this paper.
- \boxtimes Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.